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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Employment of Children Act is in force in this Presidency? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I think it is."

Industries started in the Province.

* 76 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number and type of industries that have been started under the auspices of the Government since 1st January 1945; and

(*b*) how many of these industries are in the Andhra, Tamil Nad and Kerala areas, respectively, and how many of them have been started by Andhras, Tamilians and Malayalees, respectively?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (*a*) If by the term 'auspices' of Government is meant assistance of the type contemplated under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act the answer to this question is that during the period since 1st January 1945 Government have assisted only one industry, viz, the Radio and Electricals, Limited, Madras, by taking shares of the value of Rs. 2 lakhs. This factory has not commenced production. If on the other hand the term refers to industries started with the advice and assistance of Government it may be stated generally that no large scale industry could have been started during the period of control of such articles as iron and steel, cement, chemicals, etc., without the assistance of either the Provincial or the Central Government.

" (*b*) The list of factories as it stood on 1st January 1945 contains the following particulars :—

District.

Name of Factory.

Postal address.

Nature of work carried out.

Name of Manager.

Name of occupier.

" The list has not been compiled so as to give information regarding the number of industries started by Andhras, Tamilians and Malayalees, respectively. The list is supplied to the Council Library for the information of the hon. Member."

Gunnies for packing in Stationery Stores, Madras.

* 77 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many gunnies are used on the average in a year in the Government Stationery Stores for packing purposes;

(*b*) how the gunnies are obtained, whether they are purchased in the open market or secured through tenders;

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(c) what the market rate for the gunnies per yard was according to the controlled price during the months of January, February, March, April and May 1946;

(d) whether any gunnies were bought during these months for the Government Stationery Stores; and

(e) if so, at what price?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—

" (a) About 6,000 yards a year.

" (b) The gunnies were purchased in the open market till 31st May 1946 and through tender from 1st June 1946.

" (c) Rupees 33–10–0 for a piece of 100 yards.

" (d) Yes.

" (e) At Rs. 33–10–0 per 100 yards."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether that was the market rate for the gunnies at that time?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—

" It must have been, Sir."

Using of baskets in Government Stationery Stores, Madras, for packing.

* 78 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether baskets were at one time extensively used for packing purposes in the Government Stationery Stores;

(b) whether the baskets were condemned as unsafe for packing articles for despatch from the Government Stationery Stores;

(c) if so, whether the use of the baskets has since been given up;

(d) whether, when sufficient planks were available for packing during the months of April and May 1946 baskets were bought; and

(e) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :—

" (a) Yes.

" (b) No.

" (c) The question does not arise.

" (d) & (e) Planks were not easily procurable at that time. Empty packing cases were received from various Government offices of the Presidency which were utilized for packing. In addition to this baskets were also bought for packing purposes to meet the demand."

Certain class of workers regarded as menials paid from contingencies in Government Sationery Stores, Madras.

* 79 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any workers in the Government Stationery Stores, whose work is of a permanent and continuous character, are regarded as menials paid from contingencies;